

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Severino opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

**“Sunshine Law” Announcement:** Adequate notice of this public meeting has been provided by the Annual Notice; mailed electronically to the Hunterdon Democrat and Courier News; posted on the public bulletin board and on file in the Municipal Clerk’s Office.

**FLAG SALUTE**

**ROLL CALL** - Present: Mr. Severino, Mr. Bischoff, Mr. Mazza, Mrs. Dziubek

Absent: Mr. Haynes

Others Present: J. Peter Jost, Esq., Ella M. Ruta, Township Clerk. School Representatives – Amy Barkman, Peter Ashe, Jeff Bender, Mike Sroka, Elizabeth Stothoff, Kiven Kuo.

**APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES**

- a. Regular and Executive Session Meeting Minutes of April 21, 2010

Mr. Bischoff made the following corrections to the minutes. Page 3 it reads “Mr. Bischoff made a motion and it shows the 102.2 acres and that was not for the auction” and it should read 2.2 acres. On page 20, Quote, replace “sound” with “sum” and two typing errors.

**Mr. Bischoff made a motion to approve the Regular and Executive Session Meeting Minutes of April 21, 2010 with the corrections. Mrs. Dziubek seconded. Vote: Ayes –Mr. Severino, Mr. Bischoff, Mr. Mazza, Mrs. Dziubek. Motion carried.**

**OUT OF AGENDA ORDER****PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- Ted Frankenbach, 301 Hidden Meadow Lane, Union Township. Spoke against the school budget. The taxpayer needs relief.

**JOINT SESSION OF THE MEETING WITH UNION TOWNSHIP SCHOOL BOARD REPRESENTATIVES – 2010/2011 DEFEATED SCHOOL BUDGET**

Mayor Severino explained the school budget cuts in the amount of \$180,000.00 that the Committee has recommended for the local school budget. There will be no salary raises across the board for administration, support or teaching staff. If there is a shortfall, it will come from the Building and Grounds line item. The Mayor and Mr. Bischoff met with School Superintendent Jeff Bender and Board President Peter Ashe. Both sides agreed to the wage freeze for fiscal budget year 2010-2011.

Mr. Bischoff thanked all of the teachers and school staff for what they do and for accepting a voluntary wage freeze for 2010-2011.

Mr. Mazza commended all the staff for their voluntary wage freeze.

Mrs. Dziubek asked the School Board representatives whether the contracts for salaries were opened for negotiation during this year’s school budget and also asked what portion of contributions were made to health care benefits. Mr. Ashe indicated the contract was not opened this year, however the teachers did agree to a

salary freeze in this year's budget but will receive the 2% salary "step" increase for the 2011-2012 contract year. Mr. Bender stated that currently there was no contribution made to health care benefits in 2010-2012 per the contract and explained the "step" increase process.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS (CONTINUED)**

- Steve Hurford, Resident, commented that students are leaving and taxes are going up. Jeff Bender, school superintendent, responded.
- Michele McBride, Old Forge Lane, commented on health care costs.
- Sue Mason, 1 Deer Hill Road, praised the schools for providing excellent education.
- Rick Baeder, Gano Road, commented on the health benefits for school employees.
- Maria Bambridge, Crestview Estates, spoke of the quality of school personnel and education.
- Kim Primatic, Leicester Lane, asked about bill S-1701 cap on budget increases, shared services.
- Denise Filardo, Leicester Lane, asked about the defeated school budget process.
- Emily Mulhall, Country Acres, Middle School student, commented on her experience as a student of the Township since first grade.
- Matt Mulhall, Country Acres, commended the Township on the budget, as well as the schools. The School Board has no control over the number of administrators; the numbers are State mandated.

#### **PUBIC COMMENTS ENDED**

#### **JOINT SESSION OF THE MEETING WITH UNION TOWNSHIP SCHOOL BOARD REPRESENTATIVES – 2010/2011 DEFEATED SCHOOL BUDGET CONTINUED**

Mr. Ashey, School Bd. President stated that total amount from freezing salaries came to \$127,000.00, which is a shortfall of \$53,000.00, of the previously agreed amount of \$180,000.00.

Mr. Sroka stated that the total school budget is \$100,000.00 lower than the prior year's budget.

Mr. Bender asked why it has to be reduced more than the amount of the salary freeze. Mr. Sroka added that there was miscalculation of the salary freeze amount.

The Committee responded that \$180,000.00 was the amount both sides agreed upon. It would be up to the school board to decide what other line items along with salaries and wages will be reduced.

#### **RESOLUTION #2010-83 UNION TOWNSHIP, HUNTERDON COUNTY**

#### **Certifying the General Fund Tax Levy for the Union Township Board of Education for the School Year 2010-11, by the Township Committee of the Township of Union, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey**

**WHEREAS**, the voters of the Township of Union in a duly held election, did fail to approve the General Fund Tax Levy Budget of the Board of Education of the Union Township Public Schools for the school year 2010-2011; and

**WHEREAS**, the Education, Budgets and Appropriations Law, N.J.S.A. 18A:22-37, requires the Township Committee of the Township of Union, after consultation with the Union Township Board of Education, to determine the amount which is necessary to be appropriated in such budget and to certify to the County Board of Taxation the total amount so determined; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township Committee of the Township of Union has consulted with representatives of the Union Township Board of Education, and has thereafter determined the amount necessary to be appropriated;

## MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING May 5, 2010

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Committee of the Township of Union, in the County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey that the following determination is hereby made:

1. The original tax levy on the ballot for the base budget: **\$8,515,219.00**
2. The amount of reduction to the tax levy for the base budget; **\$180,000.00**
3. The amount of tax levy being certified for the base budget: **\$8,335,219.00**
4. Specific line item reductions:

Account Number Description	Amount
<b>Salaries</b>	<b>\$180,000.00</b>

5. Supporting reasons for reduction: Based upon a review of all data provided by the Board of Education, meetings with representatives of the Board of Education, public hearings and consideration of the public need, it has been determined that the reductions set forth herein can be effectuated without a reduction in programs or negatively impacting upon the education of the students.
6. The revised budget is sufficient to provide a thorough and efficient education.
7. There was no additional general fund tax levy considered by the voters.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Union Township Board of Education, to Dr. Gerald H. Vernotica, Executive County Superintendent of Schools for Hunterdon County, and to Athan Efstathiou, the Administrator of the Hunterdon County Board of Taxation.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this resolution shall take effect immediately.

**Mr. Bischoff made a motion to approve the above resolution. Mr. Mazza seconded. Vote: Ayes – Mr. Severino, Mr. Bischoff, Mr. Mazza. Nays – Mrs. Dziubek. Motion carried.**

**RETURN TO AGENDA ORDER****VISITORS**

- a. Frank Castellano, 73 Race St. - General comments regarding wells and Sidney Brook.

Mr. Castellano complained that his well is drying up. Mr. Castellano commented that the Township should slow down building in the Township.

Gail Young, Perryville Rd., commented on the lack of water due to additional properties drawing water from the same water table.

**REPORTS RECEIVED**

- a. Road Dept - Weeks Ending 04/16/10; 4/23/10

## MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING May 5, 2010

Mr. Mazza presented possibilities recommended by Road Dept Forman Herman to Mr. Baeder to fix flooding problem on his property. A copy of the drawing provided to the Engineer for his approval. Mr. Baeder thanked Mr. Mazza and the Committee for their assistance.

Mr. Mazza said that the Union Township Road Department will do the striping on Frontage Road.

- b. Tax Collector – April 2010
- c. UTEC – March 9, 2010 Meeting Minutes  
April 13, 2010 Agenda

**CORRESPONDENCE/WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS**

Mr. Bischoff mentioned the following correspondence: None

Mr. Mazza mentioned the following correspondence: None

Mrs. Dziubek mentioned the following correspondence: None

**PUBLIC HEARING – 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading****NEW ORDINANCE – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading****NEW BUSINESS**

- a. The following resolution was introduced for adoption:

**RESOLUTION 2010-84  
IRC SECTION 125 PREMIUM ONLY PLAN**

**WHEREAS**, the Township Committee of the Township of Union has determined that it would be in the best interest of its employees to adopt a “Section 125 Premium Only Plan” allowing for pre-taxes medical benefit coverage, so called;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Township Committee adopt a so-called “Section 125 Premium Only Plan”, all in accordance with the specifications annexed hereto; and, be it known that the “Union Township Premium Only Plan” Document will be executed upon adoption of this resolution.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Township’s Chief Financial Officer undertake all actions necessary to implement and administer said plan.

**Mr. Bischoff made a motion to adopt the above resolution. Mrs. Dziubek seconded. Vote: Ayes – Mr. Severino, Mr. Bischoff, Mr. Mazza, Mrs. Dziubek. Motion carried.**

- b. The following resolution was introduced for adoption:

**RESOLUTION #2010-85  
TOWNSHIP OF UNION, COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
CONFIRMATION OF PATTENBURG FIREFIGHTER APPOINTMENT**

**WHEREAS**, Jessie Beth Zielinski, 171 Hickory Corner Road, Milford, New Jersey, has made application to be a member of the Pattenburg Volunteer Fire Company, Inc. and

**WHEREAS**, Pattenburg Fire Co. had approved the above-mentioned application.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT REOLVED** that the Township Committee of the Township of Union does hereby accept this application and appoints Jessie Beth Zielinski as a new active member of the Pattenburg Fire Company.

**Mr. Bischoff made a motion to approve the above resolution. Mrs. Dziubek seconded. Vote: Ayes – Mr. Severino, Mr. Bischoff, Mr. Mazza, Mrs. Dziubek. Motion carried.**

c. The following resolution was introduced for adoption:

**RESOLUTION #2010-86  
UNION TOWNSHIP; HUNTERDON COUNTY  
2010 REFUND OF TAX OVERPAYMENT**

**WHEREAS**, a tax payment of 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter 2010 taxes in the amount of \$742.51 for Block 24, Lot 2, QC3305, was received from Sterling Title Agency; and

**WHEREAS**, a duplicate tax payment was made by American Home Mortgage Servicing, Inc., and received through PNC Bank on April 14, 2010.

**WHEREAS**, American Home Mortgage Servicing, Inc., has requested a refund of the duplicate payment.

American Home Mortgage Servicing, Inc.  
1525 S. Beltline Road  
Coppell, Texas 75019

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Committee of the Township of Union, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, that the 2010 tax overpayment refund(s) be paid to the above stated name(s) or designee and that the Certified Finance Officer of the Township of Union is hereby authorized to issue a check in the stated amount(s).

**Mr. Bischoff made a motion to approve the above resolution. Mr. Mazza seconded. Vote: Ayes – Mr. Severino, Mr. Bischoff, Mr. Mazza, Mrs. Dziubek. Motion carried.**

d. **Motion to Approve:** George Pflugfelder – Workman's Compensation Benefit Payment to meet 100% of Salary. Difference reimbursed to the Township by PAIC Insurance Company.

Mr. Mazza made a motion to approve George Pflugfelder Workman's compensation Benefit Payment to meet 100% of Salary, the difference reimbursed to the Township by PAIC Insurance Company. Mrs. Dziubek seconded. Vote: Ayes – Mr. Severino, Mr. Bischoff, Mr. Mazza, Mrs. Dziubek. Motion carried.

e. **Motion to Approve:** Contract Renewal with Merlins Pest Control at the Hoffman House.

Mr. Bischoff made a motion to approve the contract renewal with Merlins Pest Control. Mr. Mazza seconded. Vote: Ayes – Mr. Severino, Mr. Bischoff, Mr. Mazza, Mrs. Dziubek. Motion carried.

f. **Motion to Approve:** - Facility use Application – Finn Park – Cub Scout Pack 119  
- Facility use Application – Finn Park – North Hunterdon Little League

Mrs. Dziubek made a motion to approve the above stated Facility Use Applications. Mr. Mazza seconded. Vote: Ayes – Mr. Severino, Mr. Bischoff, Mr. Mazza, Mrs. Dziubek. Motion carried.

g. **Motion to Approve:** - Attendance at 2010 Tax Collectors Conference – May 18-20.

Mr. Mazza made a motion to approve Alice Anne Pereti, Union Township Tax Collector's attendance at the 2010 Tax Collectors Conference, May 18-20. Mrs. Dziubek seconded. Vote: Ayes – Mr. Severino, Mr. Bischoff, Mr. Mazza, Mrs. Dziubek. Motion carried.

## REPORTS

**Engineer's Report** – Not present

**Attorney's Report** – Mr. Jost reported the following:

- Attorney Jost, Mr. Bischoff, Ms. McBride and Mr. Gyuro met at Finn Road Park regarding farming of the open space cultivated lands. The negotiated rent will be \$1200 for the year.

**Mrs. Dziubek made a motion to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to sign the Open Space Farm Lease for one year with Robert Gyuro Jr., dba Gyuro Farms, for the farmed open space fields of the Finn Rd. Park for \$1200. Mr. Mazza seconded. Vote: Ayes – Mr. Severino, Mr. Bischoff, Mr. Mazza, Mrs. Dziubek. Motion carried.**

- Mr. Shueing wants to keep mowing the EIFP easement.

**Mr. Mazza made a motion to approve a one year lease with Mr. Shueing for mowing 10 acres for \$300 subject to all the requirements and the approval of the Water Authority. Mr. Bischoff seconded. Vote: Ayes – Mr. Severino, Mr. Bischoff, Mr. Mazza, Mrs. Dziubek. Motion Carried.**

- St. Catherine's Developer's Agreement.

**Mr. Mazza made a motion to accept the Developer's Agreement in the usual format with the addition of Mr. Plushanski's company as guarantor of completion of the improvements and posting the 90% surety bond to guarantee the improvements and authorizing the Mayor and Clerk to sign it. Mr. Bischoff seconded. Vote: Ayes – Mr. Severino, Mr. Bischoff, Mr. Mazza. Abstain – Mrs. Dziubek. Motion carried.**

- Information about horse jumps sent to Chris Tarricone. Atty. Jost will follow-up.

**Mayor's Report** – Mayor Severino reported the following:

- The Mayor and Mr. Bischoff met with Williams Transco to discuss their conceptual plan for constructing an additional pipeline going through.
- Finn Park plumbing for pavilion. The Mayor will contact plumber for price quote.

## Committee Report

Mr. Mazza reported the following: None

Mr. Bischoff reported the following:

## MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING May 5, 2010

- “Those who hammer their guns into plows will plow for those who do not.” Thomas Jefferson
- Visited Union Township Court in regards to staffing; AOC confirmed the deficiencies. Met and spoke with Judge Perkins. Revenues have increased.
- Spoke with Sue Dziemara at the County Planning Board about the NJ DOT plans for Route 173. Mr. Bischoff would like to set up meeting with John Glynn of HC Planning Board. Mr. Bischoff will call DOT.
- What is the schedule for painting Historical Society Building? Pending approval of budget.
- Server needs to be purchased from the same company that maintains our software.

Mrs. Dziubek reported the following:

- Link to recreation site is on our website. Estimate for re-designing website from our Webmaster Paul Fitting \$4800. We will obtain additional quotes.
- Community project for Memorial Day – cleaning away debris at graves of fallen soldiers. Contact Boy Scouts and Eagle Scouts.

Mr. Severino reported the following: None**Clerk's Report - None****PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Michele McBride, resident.

- Commented on water usage data by Pilot. Mr. Bischoff will contact Mark Anderson, Pl. Bd. Attorney.
- Hoffman RFP will be published in the HC Democrat. Clean up date, Saturday May 15<sup>th</sup> 9-12. Open House scheduled for May 19<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> 1-3 pm.

Karen Wisnosky, Deerfield Lane. Wanted to know who is responsible for mowing grass at the circle on Route 173 because it is impairing sight distance. The Clerk will request the Road Foreman to contact the State about the situation.

**PAYMENT OF THE BILLS**

Mrs. Dziubek moved that all claims against the Township of Union as appearing in the Claims Register of this date be paid and that all checks listed hereinafter be issued in payment thereof. Mr. Mazza seconded. Vote: Ayes – Mr. Severino, Mr. Bischoff, Mr. Mazza, Mrs. Dziubek. Motion Carried.

**ADJOURNMENT** – There being no further business to come before the Township Committee at this time, Mr. Bischoff made a motion to adjourn. Mrs. Dziubek seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 9:44 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ella M. Ruta, Township Clerk

by Pat Essig  
Administrative Assistant